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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Central Intelligence
VIA: Deputy Director, Central Intelligence
FROM: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
SUBJECT: Upcoming Meeting of Cabinet Council on
Commerce and Trade (CCCT) [redacted]

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1. We have learned informally that the Department of Commerce will likely call a meeting of the CCCT some time next week. Its purpose will be to discuss the commercialization of LANDSAT and METSAT. Before his retirement, [redacted] represented you at this forum. Unless you direct otherwise, I propose to do so myself this time. [redacted]

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2. As you know, elements within both DoD and the Intelligence Community have expressed various reservations about commercializing LANDSAT or METSAT:

- Foreign countries, especially those without their own reconnaissance capabilities, could use LANDSAT to identify military airfields, large ships at sea, or large construction areas. METSAT data could likewise be used to support military operations against the US or its allies. Were these systems commercialized, we would want to be certain their data could be denied unfriendly elements.

- Costs to DoD and the Intelligence Community for both METSAT and LANDSAT data would likely go up.

- Continuity of data would not be as certain. A continued supply of LANDSAT imagery in particular is needed for agronomic intelligence.

- Commercializing METSAT could affect DMSP adversely since the two are highly interdependent. In fact, the last CCCT meeting on this issue recommended against the transfer of the civil weather satellite program, based on national security concerns, the need to meet U. S. commitments for international exchange of weather data, and a belief that such a transfer would result in a controlled monopoly requiring government support and direction. [redacted]

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3. We understand informally that neither our reservations or similar cautions expressed by the private sector will slow DoC's considerable momentum. This meeting of the CCCT is expected to produce a recommendation to the White House to proceed with commercialization as soon as possible. Unless you direct otherwise, I shall in that case assure that (a) our reservations are on record, and (b) press for continued involvement in the commercialization process to assure that national security concerns are dealt with appropriately.

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Rear Admiral, USN

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